

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Vol. 33 No. 53 • \$1 (GST Incl.)

Charges laid
After Dec. 24 crime spree

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**Beautiful
Babies**
Of 2013

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**Fire Safety
Winners**
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Class of 2014 revives old tradition



Vicki Brooker photo

FGM Class of 2014 all ready for Christmas

With preparations and serving of their very successful Christmas Brunch behind them, F. G. Miller High School's 2013-14 Grade 12 class took time out for a photo with Santa before heading home for the Christmas holidays.

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A long-standing pre-Christmas tradition at F. G. Miller High School that dates back several decades was revived this year, after being put on hold in 2012 due to gym reconstruction.

Last year, the school's Grade 12 students and staff still prepared their annual Christmas Brunch, but limited their guest list to their fellow students and School Board trustee Darrell Younghans.

This year it was back to the normal guest list, with community leaders. RCMP and the school's much appreciated volunteers among those enjoying turkey and all the trimmings, plus a vast selection of desserts in the school's beautiful new gymnasium.

Santa joined the assembly just as principal Darcy Younghans welcomed the visitors, noting that "without working together, we wouldn't have such great success."

(Continued on Page 2)

Town approves combined FCSS positions

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point town council met with a delegation of FCSS Board members at the final council meeting of the year, who brought a request that the positions of FCSS director and the director's administrative assistant to make one full-time position.

The board feels the combined position "would give a qualified person enough to live on, a person with a lot to give back to the community," board member Denise Bjorkman said, after Elaine Ziomek made the initial request.

"We did interview, but at that time we were only offering a 20-hour job," Jeff Hoyle added, noting that if the two were combined, the new position could be re-advertised.

Bjorkman noted that the candidates they had interviewed all had experience with budgeting as well as computer skills, "and I feel the director should be able to do that," as well as possibly to work on an FCSS website.

"I want to make it clear that Deanna (Easthope) will

be a hard act to follow," Coun. Lorne Young, who also sits on the FCSS board, "to fill her shoes and also to take it forward" He also noted that he had researched what FCSS is, discovering in the process that "it's very different from community to community. The possibilities are endless."

Following further discussion by council in camera, council passed a motion to approve the request to combine the two positions.

Council also approved the hosting of a retirement party for Easthope at the end of January.

Easthope had submitted a proposed 2014 FCSS budget, based on 2013 figures, but pending the finalization of the staffing situation. Council passed the submitted budget.

Skateboard Park

Council received a letter from the Elk Point BPO Elks asking for clarification of several issues regarding the lodge's coordination and financial support of a skateboard park, regarding the availability of a site, the ownership of the finished product and site preparation.

Mayor Tung affirmed that the fenced area west of

the water spray park "has been designated for future recreational development" of this type. Regarding ownership of the completed project, the mayor noted that the water park was fundraised by the people, and when completed, the town registered it as part of its recreational facilities which are covered under the town's insurance and maintained by the town. The same could be done with the skateboard park, he said.

Coun. Young noted that the Elks are looking at getting other organizations involved in the project as well.

Regarding construction help, the mayor said the town "could probably do the ground preparation work," but any cement or paving "would have to be built into the budget." He asked about movable skateboard equipment, but although it might be the cheapest option, "moving it could cause problems."

Formed concrete parks are extremely expensive, beginning around \$200,000, while one of the other options, priced at just over \$80,000, includes the concrete pad in its price, said Hoyle, who is also an Elks member and has been researching a variety of equipment options.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Holiday hugs

Former F. G. Miller students Katja Brand and Timmy Quinney were remembered at the Christmas Brunch as Elk Point RCMP and Elk Point Victim Services were presented with a huge collection of stuffed toys donated by the P.U.P. group and other students, to help comfort young victims of crime, accidents or other trauma.

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we count down to the final moment, we fondly recall all the good times we've had serving you, and wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year! We thank you for your patronage and look forward to seeing you again, soon.

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FGM

(Continued from Front Page)

Younghans thanked the community partners and parent council for their assistance throughout the year, and the staff and Grade 12s for their feast preparations.

Teacher Kevin Casper offered grace before lines formed at the twin buffet tables where the Grade 12s (some shown at left) stood ready to heap the guests' plates with the fine meal they had prepared for their fellow students and guests, as the old tradition continued in the new gym.

NOTICE

County of St. Paul No. 19

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering **By-law No. 2013-51** which is a Bylaw to rescind the Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 2013-10 and establish a new Municipal Development Plan Bylaw, as it relates to all lands and development in the County of St. Paul No. 19.

A **Public Hearing** will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office in St. Paul.

Copies of the Bylaw may be inspected during normal office hours at the County Office and are available online at www.county.stpaul.ab.ca

For further information, contact the County Office 780-645-3301, ext 205.

Krystle Fedoretz, Planning & Development Officer
County of St. Paul No. 19
5015 - 49 Avenue
St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A4



NOTICE

County of St. Paul No. 19

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the County of St. Paul No. 19 is considering **Bylaw No. 2013-50** which is a Bylaw to rescind Land Use Bylaw No. 2013-11 and establish a new Land Use Bylaw, as it relates to all lands and development in the County of St. Paul No. 19.

A **Public Hearing** will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.** or as soon thereafter as can possibly be arranged, at the County Office in St. Paul.

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Krystle Fedoretz, Planning & Development Officer
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5015 - 49 Avenue
St. Paul, AB., T0A 3A4



Charges laid after home invasion, car jackings

By SGT DAVE CASEY
Elk Point RCMP

During the early hours of December 24, 2013, Vermilion RCMP were dispatched to a home invasion in progress at a rural property near Dewberry, Alberta. A male youth was arrested at the scene while a second adult male was arrested nearby after being located with the aid of a police service dog. At the time of the home invasion, members of Kitscoty Detachment assisted by Elk Point RCMP had located a stolen vehicle nearby and had taken a female adult, a male youth and two female youths into custody.

The investigation has revealed that the group was responsible for a series of criminal acts throughout the region, starting with a theft of liquor and attempted car jacking in the Cold Lake area. They then committed a second successful car jacking where several elderly females were physically forced from their vehicle. Excellent descriptions of the attackers allowed police to effectively deploy resources from Cold Lake, Bonnyville, Elk Point and Kitscoty Detachments of the RCMP and the car jackers were soon located and a short hazardous pursuit with police ensued. The crime spree finally culminated with the home invasion and the subsequent arrest of the majority of those involved. During the home invasion two of the males from the group entered a rural residence where they were confronted by the homeowner.

(Continued on Page 7)

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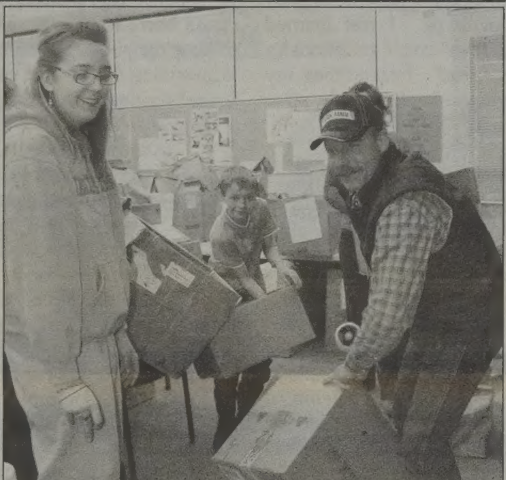
Elk Point Community Lions president Diane Pfeifer (left) said this year's group of volunteer wrappers and packers, some shown above, was "the best we've ever had" for the Santa's Anonymous program, as the big job of getting each family's hamper of donated food and gifts ready for delivery neared completion on Friday, Dec. 20 at Elk Point Further Education.



The old saying about many hands making light work proved true as volunteers taped up boxes, wrapped and sorted gifts and food hampers as they prepared to make each family's holiday a little happier this year.

Donations were collected at a number of locations in the community and through recent food drives at F. G. Miller High School and Elk Point Co-op.

Vicki Brooker photos



Fire safety winners

By LINDA GRABAS

Elk Point Elementary School

The Grade 4A class at Elk Point Elementary, shown above, participated in 'A Recipe for Fire Safety - A Campaign for Keeping Our Kids Safe' sponsored by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

They discussed and learned about fire safety and the importance of smoke alarms. In addition to practicing fire escape routes in school, they drew house plans and escape routes for their

homes. This entitled the class to submit their name to the interactive website safeathome.ca/recipe, and as a result, won third prize. Each student received a glow-in-the-dark smoke alarm, a talking Sparky dog and a fire hat. The class also received \$50 for a pizza party, a \$200 gift certificate from Scholastic, a 'Fire Call' board game and five fire safety DVDs. Beyond learning about fire safety, the students realized that by doing a little bit of extra work, positive results can be achieved.

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Capsule Comments

by Your Natural Choice Apple Drugs pharmacist, Chris Letawsky

- Knowing how many calories create an extra pound of weight will sometimes help us to be more disciplined in our holiday eating. If you eat an extra 500 calories per day in addition to your regular diet, you will gain an extra pound. With all the good food around at this time of year, it is easy to see how we gain weight.
- We've just passed the shortest day of the year. Lack of sufficient sunlight during the long winter months can affect our moods, our ability to get a good night's sleep, our energy levels and general well-being. These are symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder and can be relieved by sitting under a special light for about 20 minutes per day. We have information about this.
- If you are still a smoker, do yourself a favour and quit. Smoking is the number one cause of preventable death. The benefits of stopping begin in the first week. Your doctor will congratulate you, your spouse and friends will thank you, but most of all, your body will thank you. If you want to stop, we can help.
- A big thank you to all the doctors, nurses and receptionists and you, our customers, for your help and cooperation throughout 2013. Your positive attitude toward our pharmacy and our profession is much appreciated.
- Thanks, to you, our readers, for all your kind comments about the column through the year. We look forward to serving you throughout the coming year with great service from our wonderful staff. From us to you... a happy and healthy 2014!

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EDITORIAL

Here comes 2014!

Get ready to put on your party hats and hang up the new calendars, everyone - here comes 2014!

It's a time to look back at the past 12 months and remember the good times, achievements and accomplishments, and time to start planning a new year that includes a healthy balance between work and pleasurable activities. It's time to make resolutions, but keep them positive, as in "This year I will..." instead of "This year, I won't..." Make positive changes, and the negatives will leave on their own.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!

WAY BACK WHEN...

Lighting, loss and loss scare

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC.31 IN...

1988

Elk Point's Christmas Extravaganza was a second annual success, with Josie Zarowny the big winner of \$500 in Elk Point Bucks and Gaylene Domstad, Elsie Oryschuk and Ken Pinder each winning \$100. Darlene and Orest Sereda's residential display, Bea and John Williams' residential lighting and Dave's Pizza's commercial decorations won the chamber of commerce lighting and decorating contest, with Mike and Judy Scott the winners of the apartments category.

1993

Armand and Yvette Houle were the residential winners, Christine Bintz and Elmer McMillan the apartment winners and Heritage Lodge the institutional winners in the chamber's Christmas lighting and decorating contest. Four jolly snowmen were the focus of Miss Ockerman's ECS presentation at the first of two Elk Point Elementary School Christmas concerts, while a rig foreman told Santa that oil drilling was coming to the North Pole in Mr. Meger's 6A presentation, prompting a hasty move of the toy-making workshop to the South Pole in the second concert.

1998

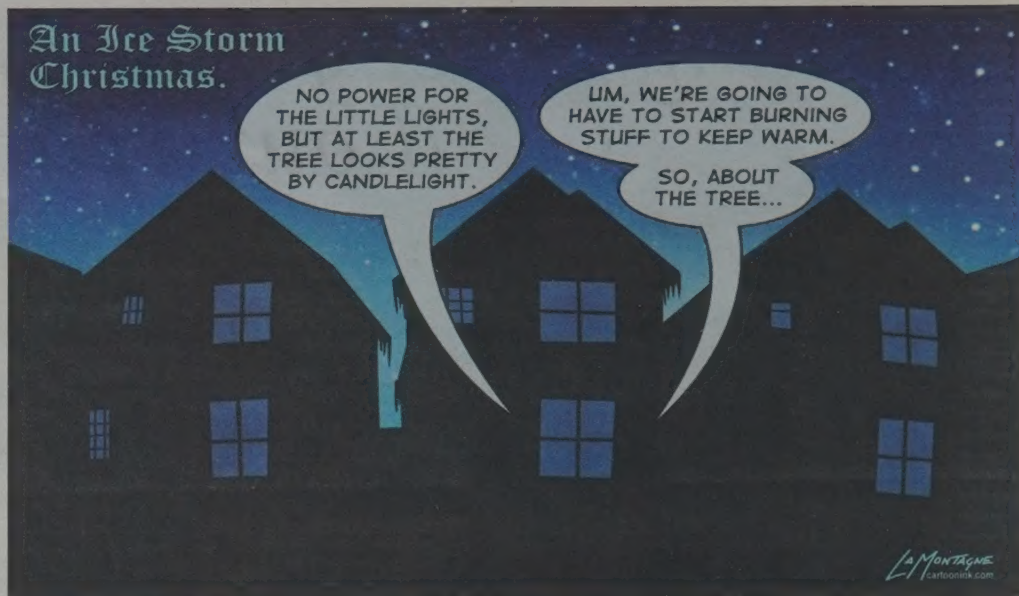
Elk Point's second major scare in three years regarding the loss of health care facilities overshadowed the holidays, with two meetings in the week before Christmas, where local governments, health care agencies, businesses, industry and service clubs discussed strategies to keep the services intact. Santas Anonymous volunteers worked long into the night to fill boxes with gifts and groceries to make Christmas happier for 28 less fortunate families in the area.

2003

Len and Diane Cole's home, glowing in holiday splendor, placed first in residential category the Christmas lighting and decorating contest, while Jack and Leona Bretzer had the best-dressed yard in the manufactured home category. Pastor Jim MacLellan's Christmas column was a week late being published, sidelined in the exciting announcement of the upcoming major expansion of the Elk Point Baptist Church.

2008

Students and staff of F. G. Miller High School honoured the memory of Grade 12 student Katja Brand and bus driver Barrie McFadyen at their Christmas brunch, with the stage headed with 'Katja's Kritters,' stuffed animals collected after her death in a car crash to be donated to Victim Services, and the McFadyen family presenting the first Barrie Wayne McFadyen Memorial Scholarship to Erin Lindquist. David Buksa and Willie Lesyk and their families were declared a tie in the Christmas lighting and decorating contest.



GUEST COLUMN

Happy New Year!

Tonight at midnight is the time many people will be saying Happy New Year to their friends as they welcome in the new year of 2014. I just learned something. I learned that Jews don't traditionally wish each other "Happy New Year". Instead they say the Hebrew phrase "shana tovah" which - in spite of mistaken translation that appears on almost all greeting cards - has no connection at all to the expression "have a Happy New Year." Shana tovah conveys the hope for a good year rather than a happy one. And the reason for that distinction contains great significance.



EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk

Before you start thinking that Jews will be saying have a good year to each other tonight, let me explain. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year was celebrated in 2013 from sundown on Sept. 4 to nightfall on Sept. 6. The Hebrew date for Rosh Hashanah is 1 Tishrei 5774. Thought Rosh Hashanah literally means "head of the year," the holiday actually takes place on the first two days of the Hebrew month of Tishrei, which is the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar. This is because Rosh Hashanah, one of four new years in the Jewish year, is considered the new year of people, animals and legal contracts. In the Jewish oral tradition, Rosh Hashanah marks the completion of the creation of the world.

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish High Holy Days, or Yamim Noraim (the "Days of Awe"), and is followed 10 days later by Yom Kippur, the "day of the atonement." The Mishnah refers to Rosh Hashanah as the "day of judgment," and is believed that God opens the Book of Life on this day and begins to decide who shall live and who shall die. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are viewed as an opportunity for Jews to repent (teshuvah, in Hebrew) and ensure a good fate. Jews traditionally gather in synagogues on Rosh Hashanah for extended services that follow the liturgy of a special prayerbook,

called a mahzor, that is used during the Days of Awe. At specific times throughout the service a shofar, or ram's horn, is blown. The mitzvah (commandment) to hear the shofar, a literal and spiritual wake-up call, is special to the time of year. The new year is the only Jewish holiday that is observed for two days by all Jews (other holidays are observed for just one day within the land of Israel) as it is also the only major holiday that falls on a new moon. A common greeting on Rosh Hashanah is shana tovah u'metukah, Hebrew for "a good and sweet new year." Many traditional Rosh Hashanah foods - apples and honey, raisin challah, honey cake and pomegranate - are eaten, in part, for this reason.

I thought all this information about what happens on a Jewish New Year and why was very interesting. In some ways, some of the activities may or may not take place by some of us as we bring in our New Year. After all, there are those "New Years resolutions" that some of us make around trying to change something or improve something in our lives.

But let us look at the words - "Have a Happy New" versus the words "Have a good and sweet new year". The main difference is the use of the word happy or the word good in the sentence.

This past January, the Atlantic Monthly had a fascinating article titled There's More to Life than Being Happy. The author, Emily Esfahani Smith, points out how researchers are beginning to caution against the pursuit of mere happiness. They found that a meaningful life and a happy life overlap in certain ways, but are ultimately very different. Leading a happy life, the psychologists found, is associated with being a "taker" while leading a meaningful life corresponds with being a "giver." Now wait a minute - that is a pretty strong reality that maybe a little hard for some of us to accept. Maybe we will just say - "let me think about this thought."

Long before all of these studies, Jews somehow understood this intuitively. Happy is good, but good is better. To hope for a happy new year is to give primacy to the ideal of a hedonistic culture whose greatest goal is "to have a good time." To seek a good year however is to recognize the superiority of meaning over the joy of the moment. Therefore, let me wish you all a good 2014 new year. O.K., let me also say Happy New Year everyone and may it be a good year for you.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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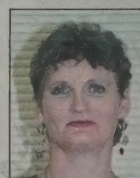
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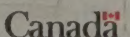
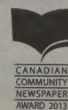
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.



Wishing a very Happy New Year to all our readers

Elk Point Review Salutes the **BEAUTIFUL BABIES** of the **Year 2013**



**Paynton Sabina
Lane Skarsen**
Date of Birth: August 29, 2013
Weight: 6 lbs. 11 oz.
Height: 19"
Daughter of
Lane & Melissa
Skarsen

*Congratulations to all
the parents and families
of these beautiful additions
to their families!*



**Jack Walter
Hammond**
Date of Birth: May 17, 2013
Weight: 7 lbs. 2 oz.
Son of
Ryan & Chantelle
Hammond



**Owen Scott
Bannister**
Date of Birth: October 20, 2013
Weight: 7 lbs. 14 oz.
Height: 20"
Son of
Stephan & Terri
Bannister



**Jaydn Joseph
Sakowsky**
Date of Birth: June 6, 2013
Weight: 7 lbs. 15 oz.
Height: 22"
Son of
Brandi & Kyle
Sakowsky



**Hudson Adoniram
Goulet**
Date of Birth: November 15, 2013
Weight: 9 lbs. 9 oz.
Height: 50.5 cm
Son of
Jason & Jill
Goulet

Have A Spectacular Year!
Wishing you much happiness, success, prosperity and
good fortune in 2014. Happy New Year!

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New Year*

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Good
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and yours much cause
for celebration. Thank you
for giving me so much to be
thankful for this past year!

Happy New Year!

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**Happy New Year
... And All That Jazz!**
2014

With best wishes for
a noteworthy
year from all of us!

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Town of Elk Point
Mayor, Council and Staff

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Charges laid

(Continued from Page 2)

A violent altercation ensued and the homeowner was able to subdue one of his attackers while the other fled. Others from the group were arrested nearby in possession of a stolen vehicle. The victims of the robberies involving the car jacking, although shaken, were unharmed. The victims of the home invasion have been treated for minor injuries and released from hospital.

Facing charges of robbery and numerous related offences of violence in relation to the car jackings near Cold Lake are Andy Lacombe (18) and Reena Moyah (18) of Fishing Lake, Alberta, and Tasheena Youngchief (21) of Frog Lake, Alberta. Andy Lacombe, who was wanted on unrelated warrants for arrest, is also charged with Robbery and related criminal offences in relation to the home invasion. Two male youths, aged 16 and 14, face numerous charges including robbery, as does a female youth aged 15. A 12 year old, who was in the company of the accused, has been released without charge but remains under investigation. A warrant for the arrest of Myles Lajimodiere (27) of Fishing Lake, also known as Myles Deschamps, has been issued in relation to the robberies near Cold Lake and he remains at large.

After a four-hour rampage spanning over 300 kilometres, a total of 89 charges for property related offences and offences of violence have been laid against the seven accused. The series of crimes is still under investigation with the RCMP wishing to speak to several more subjects believed to be involved. Anyone with information regarding these events is asked to contact their local RCMP Detachment or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Myles Lajimodiere should not approach him and is asked to call 911 with the location immediately.

The Elk Point RCMP would like to thank the members of Frog Lake Security for their outstanding assistance in this matter.

Council briefs

(Continued from Front Page)

Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich moved to say "yes, yes and maybe" to the Elks request, approving the site, ownership and maintenance of the finished skateboard park, and agreeing to further discussions regarding the ground preparation.

Jaws of Life

Elk Point Volunteer Fire Department has experienced difficulty with their current Jaws of Life, which are unable to cut through the materials of new vehicles. The Fire Board recommended council share the cost of a replacement set with the County of St. Paul. The total cost is estimated at \$37,429.95, and the town has about \$4,700 in reserves set aside for their replacement in a fund that grows by \$200 each time the equipment is used. Their use three times this past year will add another \$900 to the reserves. The fire department also plans to contact MLA Shayne Saskiw to see if any grants are available for such a purchase. Council moved to share the cost, subject to the county's approval of doing likewise.

Handibus

The handibus is currently parked outdoors at Buckingham House, and council agreed that the vehicle, owned jointly by the town and county, needs a garage. As the fire hall is also jointly owned, council feels the logical place to build a garage is on the east side of

the fire hall, tapping into its electrical system, and the fire department is in agreement. Council agreed this is a good investment, and approved a motion to build the garage at a cost of \$36,415, contingent on the county's approval.

Airport Authority

Elk Point's airport terminal has been left in the cold by the failure of its furnace, and although a new one has been ordered, the heat may remain off for the remainder of the winter. The lack of heat caused pipes to freeze and break, and this will need repair before the building is back in use. It has been suggested that the terminal undergo renovations at the same time.

The Airport Authority set its 2014 rates, corporate customers paying \$1,000 per year, private operators with hangars \$500 per year or \$100 per year without a hangar. Plug-in use is \$10 per day, \$100 per month or \$500 per year.

Postal Rates

With Canada Post's rates about to increase, the town is looking at alternatives. Lynn Proskiw told council that the administration is considering emailing water bills to save time, paper and postage to many of its utility customers, and is looking at a computer program that would facilitate that change. The Municipal Government Act does not permit tax notices to be emailed, so those will still be sent via the post office.



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